

Remarks

Claims 13-26 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-12 have been cancelled and claims 13-26 have been added. No new matter is believed added.

Claims 2, 4, 10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Nicholls (UK 2055696). Claims 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nicholls in view of Miller et al. (US 5,257,070), hereafter "Miller." These rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-12. However, these rejections will be addressed as if based on newly added claims 13-26.

Independent claim 13 sets forth a printing apparatus for printing an image on a receiving substrate, wherein the printing apparatus comprises: an ink applicator for imagewise applying liquid ink to a side of the receiving substrate; a drying section having an active drying device for active drying of the receiving substrate after said ink application; a transportation device for transporting the receiving substrate along a path past said ink applicator and through said drying section; wherein said path includes a first substantially straight portion at said ink applicator, and a first and a second convex curve **in said drying section**, said first and second convex curve separated

by a second substantially straight portion." Thus, the first and second convex curves are located **within** the drying section. Independent claims 18, 23, and 26 include similar features.


In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the first and second convex curves of the drying section in claim 13 are anticipated by various components within the transfer apparatus 47 of Nicholls. As clearly illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 3 of Nicholls, however, the transfer apparatus 47 is shown located downstream from the curing oven 34 (i.e., drying section) and, as such, the convex curves are not located within the curing oven 34 as claimed. Further, as clearly illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 3 of Nicholls, the path through the curing oven 34 is straight (i.e., it does not include first and second convex curves as claimed in the present invention); the convex curves are only introduced after the curing oven 34 (i.e., in transfer apparatus 47). Thus, the curing oven 34 of Nicholls does not include the claimed first and second convex curves. Miller does not remedy the deficiencies of Nicholls.

Accordingly, since Nicholls, alone or in combination with Miller, fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of claims 13-26, Applicants respectfully submit that

claims 13-26 are allowable

If the Examiner believes that any further discussion of the invention would be helpful, perhaps in the form of an Examiner's Amendment, Applicants' representative is available at (518) 449-0044, and earnestly solicits such discussion.

Respectfully submitted,


By: John A. Merecki
Reg. No. 35,812

Date: 11/18/03

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC
Three E-Comm Square
Albany, New York 12207
518-449-0044
jmerecki@hwdpatents.com